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Remarks.

The Examiner's comments and objections and the cited references have been carefully considered by the Applicant.

Responsive thereto, new and amended claims are herewith submitted for approval.

Reconsideration of the application as hereby amended is respectfully requested.

For the purposes of the examination the following is stated.

The purpose of the claimed invention is that of providing paper coated so as to have a pearlescent effect and high "printability" (page 2, lines 8-10 of the specification).

The printability is how well the paper performs in a printing machine.

(Canadian Pulp and Paper Association)

Printability is a measure of the ability of a printing paper to provide a high quality printing medium. (Pulp and Paper Centre, Toronto)

Measure of the printability of a sheet of paper is dependent upon the amount of ink the paper absorbs, the smoothness of its surface, and the evenness of its caliper.

(American Paper and Pulp Association. The dictionary of paper, including pulp, paperboard, paper properties and related papermaking terms. 3rd ed. New York. American Paper and Pulp Association. 1965; and

Gazurian, Johnny A. The advertising & graphic arts glossary. Los Angeles. Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. 1966).

A paper with pearlescent effect and high printability should have the pearlescent pigments located on surface, and not covered by and mixed inside the coating.

It should have smooth surface, not affected by streaks and/or lines that are formed by deposition techniques involving pressing the coating with a blade or other (specification

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, pages 1-2, lines 25-30 and 1-2, respectively).

Screen printing is a printing technique that uses a fine woven mesh to support an ink blocking stencil. The attached stencil forms open areas of mesh that transfer ink as a sharp-edged image onto a substrate. A squeegee (blade) is moved across the screen stencil forcing or pumping ink past the threads of the woven mesh in the open areas. The screen is placed atop a substrate. Ink is placed on top of the screen, and a fill bar (also known as a floodbar) is used to fill the mesh openings with ink. The operator begins with the fill bar at the rear of the screen and behind a reservoir of ink. The operator lifts the screen to prevent contact with the substrate and then using a slight amount of downward force pulls the fill bar to the front of the screen. This effectively fills the mesh openings with ink and moves the ink reservoir to the front of the screen. The operator then uses a squeegee (rubber blade) to move the mesh down to the substrate and pushes the squeegee to the rear of the screen. The ink that is in the mesh opening is pumped or squeezed by capillary action to the substrate. (see Wikipedia, for example).

The screen-printing technique is suitable for creation of design patterns that are not suitable to provide smooth continuous surfaces.

Moreover, the squeegee action will force the coating composition onto the substrate, the pigments (with pearlescent effect) mixing into the coating mix pumped/forced onto the substrate.

Indeed, De Bastiani et al discloses a *"transfer sheet for applying images to surfaces"* with a *base material/carrier sheet that can be polystyrene ...or release coated paper* which has a *"desired etched glass graphic design"* to be transferred to a receiving surface (glass).

The carrier is coated by a three step coating process all of which by screen printing (column 1, lines 66-67 and column 2, lines 1-2), first with a nitrocellulose lacquer and thereafter with a mica/silica composition as an inking coating with pearlescent quality having typically 6-90 microns in size. The second coating of pearlescent composition is of about 0.5 mils/12.7 micrometers (see Example of column 3, lines 49-52).

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The screen printing application requires, after each coating application additional heating steps for drying the solvent (column 2, lines 25-31).

Eventually, a discontinuous design pattern is created both on the carrier surface and on the receiving surface suitable to create a chemically etched surface effect.

Wiley et al disclose a decorative surface covering with embossed surface.

They teach (see column 3, lines 24-25) the "intermediary" product of a base layer 11, that may be a release paper (paper used to prevent the sticking of glue, paste or other adhesive substances) on which a coating of foamable resinous composition with a thickness of 7-30mils (177-762 micrometers) is applied, then the coating is heated/cooled to a pre-gel layer 13, all of which form a base layer 14.

Thereafter the base layer 14 is printed 15.

It is noted that the intermediate layer of Wiley et al with a pre-gel deposition layer, before printing, comprises no second deposition of pearlescent coating with the thickness as claimed (providing a smooth continuous the printing surface).

Wiley et al disclose further a second coating step with a wearlayer 21 over the printing 15, leading to a second intermediary product on which an additional pigmented ink 23 is applied in a pattern layer 25, and this last layer has alleged pearlescent appearance.

Should this last layer, obtained after 3(three) layer applications be deemed the final pearlescent coating, it will have a discontinuous patterned layer 25 with a thickness other than claimed in new claims 21 and 20 and over which a further/second plastisol wearlayer 27 is taught to be applied that is fused.

O'Dell et al disclose in the illustrative Examples, fabrication of a decorative laminate (for counter tops, wall panels floor surfacing...). The fabrication comprises the step of applying a coating composition suitable to give a pearlescent effect onto an already printed decor

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paper (see Summary of the Invention, column 3, lines 16-18, and Example I, column 9, lines 38-39 and 55).

The disclosed product of O'Dell et al is in fact a laminate with a substrate that, in an embodiment, may be a printed paper (column 9, line 55) and over which printed pattern the coating with alleged pearlescent effect is applied.

There is no disclosure whatsoever in O'Dell et al of how the printed decor paper is obtained nor there is any disclosure of a coated paper with a pearlescent effect that has the capability of being printable over its coating. Reference is only made to only "*conventional decorative facing sheet (including ...prints...)*" (column 3, lines 16-17).

No method step(s) for obtaining a, nor a (printing) high printability (high quality printing medium) coated paper are ever disclosed or suggested in O'Dell et al that has a surface coating layer with pearlescent pigments with the thickness as claimed in new claims 21 and 20.

Bourdelaïs et al disclose a packaging material with silver halide imaging having at least three successive layers, in which one lower is an adhesive layer 14, the intermediate layer 12 comprises nacreous pigment and the top surface layer 10 is a halide image layer.

It is therefore submitted that the steps/features combination of new claims 20 and 21 is new and non-obvious over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, it is believed that the new claims are allowable.

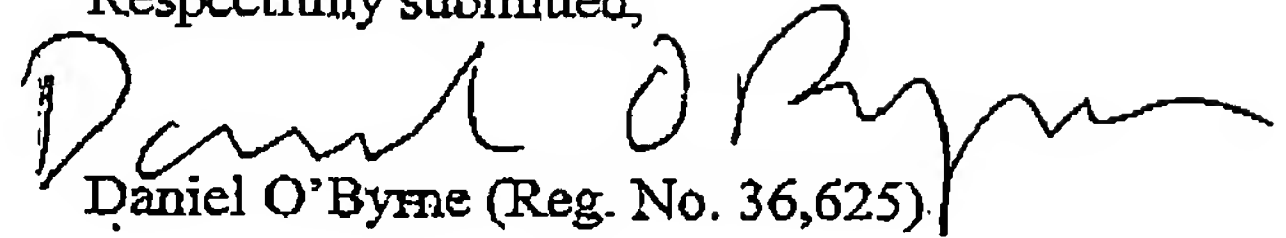
Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

While it is believed that the amended claims properly and clearly define the present invention, applicant would be open to any suggestion or amendment the Examiner may have or propose concerning different claim phraseology which, in the Examiner's opinion,

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more accurately defines the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



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